

Appl. No.: 10/772,196  
Amdt. dated January 4, 2010  
Reply to Office Action of October 1, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of discriminating between orders, comprising:  
evaluating a queue of orders to determine whether one or more prescriptions within each order is fillable in an automated manner or a non-automated manner; and  
determining, via a control computer, a set of workstations for each prescription based on said evaluating,  
wherein in response to the determination revealing that at least one of the prescriptions is fillable in an automated manner, the method further comprises selecting a first subset of said workstations to fill the at least one prescription entirely automatically, that said first subset of said workstations excludes a pharmacist review workstation for reviewing a respective filled order by a pharmacist and,  
wherein in response to the determination revealing that the at least one of the prescriptions prescription is fillable in a non-automated manner, the method further comprises selecting a second subset of said workstations to semi-automatically or manually fill the at least one prescription, said second subset of said workstations that includes the pharmacist review workstation.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising selecting an appropriate sized end user container, printing and applying a label to said container, inserting the labeled container into a carrier, and routing the carrier among the first or second subset of workstations.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said routing includes routing the carrier from a dispensing workstation, to an imaging workstation, and to a capping workstation.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 additionally comprising tracking multiple

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prescriptions that belong to one order and grouping all the prescriptions that belong to one order for shipping.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 additionally comprising routing the carrier to a packing workstation where a patient specific document is printed and inserted into a labeled bag along with the patient's prescription.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a prescription filling line, comprising:

evaluating a queue of orders to determine whether one or more prescriptions within each order is fillable in an automated manner or a non-automated manner;

selecting an appropriate sized end user container;

printing and applying a label to said container;

inserting the labeled container into a carrier;

routing the carrier to a prescription filling station;

routing the carrier to an imaging workstation; and

determining, via a control computer, a set of equipment for each prescription based on said evaluating,

wherein in response to the determination revealing that at least one of the prescriptions is fillable in an automated manner, the method further comprises selecting a first subset of said equipment, the first subset comprises automated equipment to fill the at least one prescription entirely automatically, that said first subset excludes a pharmacist review workstation for reviewing a respective filled order by a pharmacist and,

wherein in response to the determination revealing that the at least one of the prescriptions prescription is fillable in a non-automated manner, the method further comprises selecting a second subset of said equipment, the second subset comprises non-automated equipment to semi-automatically or manually fill the at least one prescription, said second subset that includes the pharmacist review workstation,

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wherein when said order has been filled by the automated equipment, routing each carrier for said order to a packing workstation without a review by a pharmacist, and

wherein when said order has at least one prescription filled by the non-automated equipment, routing each carrier for said order to ~~at~~the pharmacist workstation before routing each carrier to the packing workstation.

10. (Withdrawn) A system for filing a prescription, said system comprising:

a control computer in communication with a plurality of workstations comprising a first prescription filling station comprising automated equipment and a second prescription filling station comprising non-automated equipment, said control computer configured to:

evaluate a queue of orders to determine whether each prescription within respective orders is fillable by said automated equipment; and

control routing of the prescription, based on said evaluating, either to one set of workstations that includes the first prescription filling station comprising automated equipment but is independent of a pharmacist review workstation or to a different set of workstations that includes the second prescription filling station comprising non-automated equipment and that further includes a pharmacist review workstation.

11. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 10 further comprising one or more carriers corresponding with a respective one or more prescriptions, said carriers configured to transport a respective one or more containers throughout the system.

12. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein the plurality of workstations further comprise an imaging workstation comprising an imaging means configured to take and store an image of the contents of respective carriers.

13. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12 wherein the imaging workstation further comprises a near infrared imaging means.

14. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein respective carriers comprise an

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insert configured to enable the carrier to accommodate a container of varying diameter.

15. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein respective carriers comprise an identifier configured to store information associated with the corresponding prescription.

16. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 15 wherein the identifier comprises a radio frequency identification tag.

17. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 10 wherein the plurality of workstations further comprise some combination of a dispensing workstation, a capping workstation and a packing workstation.